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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Future work of the Forum, including emerging issues

Methods of work: developing a questionnaire to enhance the reporting of intergovernmental organizations to the Permanent Forum

Note by the Secretariat**

Summary

The present note has been prepared following a decision of the Forum at its fifth session to develop a questionnaire designed to enhance the reporting of intergovernmental organizations to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The note contains a draft questionnaire for consideration by the Forum.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

** The submission of the present note was delayed in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

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Introduction

1. The present note is submitted in accordance with the decision taken by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session to continue its work of preparing a compilation of its current practices and methods of work. The decision was also made to appoint Forum members Yuri Boychenko and Parshuram Tamang as special rapporteurs to develop, within existing resources, a questionnaire designed to enhance the reporting of organizations to the Forum. The views of organizations were also requested in that respect. The special rapporteurs were urged to submit proposals on a questionnaire to be discussed at the sixth session of the Forum (see E/2006/43, para. 155).

2. The draft questionnaire, which is contained in the annex, follows up a note submitted to the Forum at its fifth session (E/C.19/2006/10). It is also based on experiences of the Forum in receiving some 25 reports annually from United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, providing information on various aspects of their work regarding indigenous peoples; and on the realization that multi-year efforts are required for the implementation of some accommodations; that agencies cannot immediately implement some recommendations because of a lack of resources and other relevant reasons; and that the mandate of the Forum includes the mainstreaming of these issues within the United Nations system.

Approach

3. The proposed questionnaire is meant as a practical tool to facilitate the provision of information by agencies in a way that will improve their dialogue with the Forum and be useful to the agencies, the Forum, Governments and indigenous peoples organizations. It is also meant to improve the monitoring efforts of the Forum and its understanding of obstacles in implementation.

4. In preparation of the draft questionnaire, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs also sought input in this respect. The replies received did not contain any information on this point.

5. The questionnaire is viewed as work in progress, the text of which should be examined periodically and revised as developments require. The special rapporteurs are looking forward to comments that will further improve the questionnaire.

Annex

Draft questionnaire to United Nations agencies/ funds/programmes/departments and other intergovernmental organizations

1. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to your entity under one or more areas of the mandate/agenda of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the last session and at the previous sessions of the Forum.

Please make specific reference to your entity's efforts regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals.

(Please specify the paragraphs of the report of the Forum to which the response is addressed.)

2. Response to recommendations addressed to two or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general under one or more items of the mandate/agenda of the Forum at the last session of the Forum and at the previous sessions of the Forum.

Please make specific reference to your entity's efforts regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals.

(Please specify the paragraphs of the report of the Forum to which the response is addressed.)

3. Given the special emphasis of the Forum on indigenous children and youth, indigenous women, data collection and disaggregation, and free, prior and informed consent, please include information on how your entity is dealing with these important issues.

4. Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Forum, especially those addressed specifically to your entity.

5. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations of the Forum, especially those addressed specifically to your entity.

6. Given the Forum's recommendations on the adoption of policies on indigenous peoples' issues, please specify whether your entity has a policy or other similar tool regarding indigenous peoples' issues.

Please specify other significant information regarding recent programmes, budgetary allocations or projects/activities.

(In order to facilitate the quantification of data by the Forum, please indicate the number of programmes and projects/activities devoted to indigenous peoples' issues in the past year.)

7. Does your entity have a focal point on indigenous issues? Please provide name and contact information of the focal point.

8. Regarding capacity-building on indigenous issues for staff in your entity, does your entity have a regular capacity-building programme, an ad hoc capacity-building programme or a plan for capacity-building activities in this area, at headquarters or in the field?

9. Please provide any additional information regarding your entity's activities regarding the goal, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

10. Please provide information and suggestions regarding the specific theme of the next session of the Forum.

11. Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings under your entity regarding indigenous issues in the current year and next year.